

Tippecanoe County Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

10:00 am

Tippecanoe Room, Tippecanoe County Office Building
20 N 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana

Commissioners present President Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President David S. Byers and Member Tracy A. Brown.

Also present: Attorney Doug Masson, Auditor Robert Plantenga, and Recording Secretary Jennifer Wafford. Absent: Commissioners' Assistant Paula Bennett

- I. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – President Murtaugh called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance
- II. **PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** – Tracy Brown presented and recommended: The claims from December 22, 2021, through December 28, 2021, were recommended for approval without exception.
 - Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Accounts Payable as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.
- III. **PRESENTATION OF PAYROLL** – Tracy Brown presented and recommended: The payroll from December 23, 2021 was recommended for approval without exception.
 - Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Payroll as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.
- IV. **ORDINANCE AMENDING ELECTION DISTRICTS AND ADOPTING MAPS** – Doug Masson presented and recommended:
 - A. **ORDINANCE 2021-34-CM**, Amending Election Districts and Adopting Maps (on First Reading)
 - Commissioner Byers moved to consider ORDINANCE 2021-34-CM, second by Commissioner Brown.Attorney Masson advised that this amends sections 35.02 and 35.03 of the Tippecanoe County Code. These are the sections that specify the Commissioner and the Council Districts. This is governed by the State of Indiana, and they require amendment at least the year after every Census year. The last US Census was completed in 2020, so this ordinance must be passed by December 31, 2021. This takes effect January 4, 2022 so the State can get back in business on January 3, 2022 and affirm the precincts. After that takes place, then primary filing can start January 5, 2022. This ordinance tries to balance a few competing districts. You want to have districts that are as nearly even as possible in population, that don't split up precincts and don't break up townships, and are reasonably compact.

Commissioner Brown stated that they were scrambling to complete this ordinance, as the State did not approve the precincts until December 23, 2021. The work on this amendment started with the Board of Elections doing the re-precincting that shrank the number of precincts from 110 down to 94.

President Murtaugh asked if there was any public comment, and then called for the vote:

- Auditor Plantenga recorded the vote:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Commissioner Murtaugh | Y |
| Commissioner Byers | Y |

Commissioner Brown Y
Ordinance 2021-34-CM passed with a vote of 3-0 (on First Reading).

- Commissioner Byers moved to suspend the rules and hear Ordinance 2021-34-CM on Second Reading, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Byers moved to consider ORDINANCE 2021-34-CM on Second Reading, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

President Murtaugh asked if there was any public comment, and then called for the vote:

- Auditor Plantenga recorded the vote:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Commissioner Byers | Y |
| Commissioner Brown | Y |
| Commissioner Murtaugh | Y |

Ordinance 2021-34-CM passed with a vote of 3-0 (on Second Reading).

V. UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Brown stated that Commissioner Murtaugh applauded the efforts of all the staff that worked in the pandemic, as it became part of our lives in March of 2020. He notes that many of us were hopeful that at the end of 2020 the COVID Situation would be over. However, 2021 brought significant challenges to the County, and the Health Department launched a COVID Vaccination Clinic. That clinic has moved from the original location, out to the old YMCA building. In 2021, our County received an award from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the renovated Fairgrounds facilities opened, and two projects were launched at the Sheriff's office, and Community Corrections. Commissioner Brown notes that these kinds of things don't happen without a lot of people being involved to help out.

Commissioner Brown also wanted to thank Commissioner Murtaugh specifically, for his efforts and work on the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. These funds will be a significant benefit to the County, and it takes a person with special talent and like numbers to be able to handle that project.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brenda Garrison, Tippecanoe County Surveyor Office Manager, states that this will be the last Commissioner Meeting she attends due to retiring at the end of the year. She thanked the Commissioner's for their example of leadership, their willingness to work alongside other government entities, and to compromise for the good of the taxpayer. She advised that she lives in an adjoining county that could look to Tippecanoe County as a shining example. She appreciates the Commissioner's assistance through the years of her tenure.

Commissioner Byers moved to adjourn. President Murtaugh adjourned the meeting.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE

Thomas P. Murtaugh, President

David S. Byers, Vice-President

Tracy Brown, Member

ATTEST:

Robert A Plantenga, Auditor

01/18/2022

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Wafford, Recording Secretary